

IN BRIEF

Repository of UN Women's Work on Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces for Women and Girls

(June 2026)

Sexual harassment and other forms of sexual violence in public spaces in urban, rural, online and other settings are an everyday occurrence for women and girls across the world.

Women and girls experience and fear different forms of sexual harassment in public spaces, from unwelcome sexual remarks, jokes, and touching to rape and femicide. It happens on streets, in and around public transportation, markets, schools, workplaces, libraries, public toilets, water and food distribution sites, and parks.

This reality reduces women's and girls' freedom of movement. It reduces their ability to participate in school, work, and public life. It limits their access to essential services and their enjoyment of cultural and recreational activities and negatively impacts their health and well-being.

For 15 years, UN Women's Global Initiative, [Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces for Women and Girls](#), has worked with local, regional and national governments, women's organizations, youth groups, and other civil society partners, UN agencies, and other partners to develop, implement, and evaluate comprehensive approaches to prevent and respond to sexual harassment against women and girls in public spaces in different settings.

Beginning in the cities of Quito (Ecuador), Cairo (Egypt), New Delhi (India), Port Moresby (Papua New Guinea), and Kigali (Rwanda), this multi-stakeholder global initiative has grown to include 75 cities in 36 countries, including in the global north and south. The Global Initiative continues to expand and achieve multi-level results through catalytic partnerships.

- More than 50 cities have been supported by UN Women to address the data gap on sexual harassment of women in public spaces.
- More than 25 countries have been supported by UN Women to review and/or develop new legislation and policies to prevent and respond to sexual harassment in public spaces.
- More than 10 public spaces have been revitalized taking account of women's and girls' needs and concerns in countries such as Tanzania, Morocco, Egypt and Rwanda.
- In Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, safe cities programming has contributed to increased safety, hygiene, and comfort among women working in markets and while traveling on public transport
- In Cairo, Egypt, the safe city programme has demonstrated an increase in women's and girls' autonomous mobility by contributing to their access to work, security, education, social networks, and leisure.
- Building safe and sustainable cities with women and girls is not only an urban development challenge, it is fundamentally a gender equality, human rights and sustainable development imperative, linked directly to SDG 5 on gender equality, SDG 11 on sustainable cities and other SDGs, the new Urban Agenda, CEDAW and the Beijing Platform for Action.



**SAFE CITIES
AND SAFE
PUBLIC SPACES**

UN WOMEN GLOBAL FLAGSHIP PROGRAMME

BETWEEN 2022-2025, THROUGH THE SAFE CITIES AND SAFE PUBLIC SPACES GLOBAL INITIATIVE, UN WOMEN HAS PARTNERED WITH:



More than **104 institutional partners** including national government, mayor's offices, local and regional governments, and donors



Over **900 main partners** (e.g. women's rights organizations, other civil society groups, UN agencies, and city networks/associations) in programming.

Corporate Brief

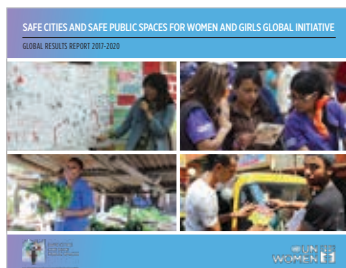


Corporate Brief on Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces for Women and Girls

UN Women's Global Initiative "Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces for Women and Girls" builds on its "Safe Cities Free of Violence against Women and Girls" Global Programme that began implementation in January 2011 to prevent and respond to sexual violence against women and girls in public spaces. It supports local, regional and national governments to address sustainable development goal targets across multiple goals.

Available in [English](#), [French](#), and [Spanish](#)

Global Results Reports



Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces for Women and Girls Global Initiative: Global Results Report 2017–2020

This second global report presents results of [Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces for Women and Girls](#) initiatives in a range of cities in Africa, Latin America, the Arab States, Asia and the Pacific, North America, and Europe.

It illustrates what governments, grassroots women, women's organizations, and other community partners can do to implement interventions that form part of a comprehensive human rights–based approach to prevent and respond to sexual harassment and other forms of sexual violence against women and girls in public spaces, including findings from recent evaluations conducted at country and global levels on safe cities/safe public spaces for women and girls.

The report calls for the further development and implementation of comprehensive laws and policies that prevent and respond to sexual violence in public spaces—one of the main gaps identified in the [25-year review of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action](#).

Available in [English](#), [French](#), and [Spanish](#)



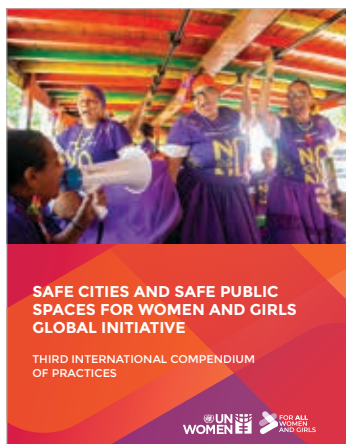
Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces: Global Results Report (2017)

This report on UN Women's Global Programme Initiative, [Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces](#), shares achievements gleaned from various participating city programmes in Africa, Latin America, the Arab States, Asia and the Pacific, North America, and Europe.

The report illustrates what local governments, grassroots women, women's organizations and other community partners can do to implement comprehensive, evidence-based approaches to prevent and respond to sexual harassment in public spaces. Many cities have successfully implemented action to enhance safety, including through a focus on addressing sexual harassment in impoverished urban areas.

The report also places particular emphasis on detailing key actions undertaken in the four main outcome areas of the global programme initiative.

Available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#)



Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces for Women and Girls Global Initiative Third International Compendium of Practices (2025)

This third international compendium of practices illustrates, in a practical way, how participating cities in the Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces for Women and Girls Global Initiative are working to implement concerted action in four key areas: 1) ensuring that locally relevant and owned solutions are identified, 2) strengthening laws and policies, 3) investing in the safety and economic viability of public spaces, and 4) fostering transformative social norms that promote women's and girls' rights to use public spaces free from sexual harassment and other forms of sexual violence against women and girls.

In doing so, city partners are committed to working to advance their integrated approaches to reduce the prevalence of sexual harassment against women and girls in public spaces, increase women's and girls' feelings of safety, and increase women's and girls' autonomous mobility. The compendium includes practices in Safe Cities initiatives implemented between January 2022 and January 2025. The Compendium showcases resilient action and innovation in addressing new and emerging issues, including technology-facilitated sexual harassment and other forms of violence against women and girls.

Available in [English](#) (French version forthcoming)



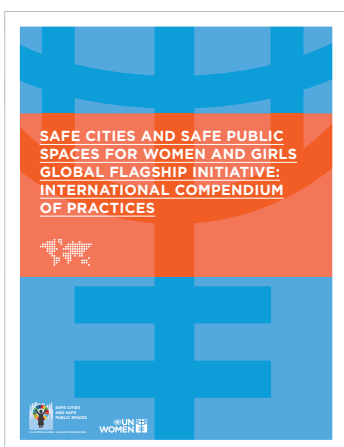
Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces for Women and Girls Global Flagship Initiative: Second International Compendium of Practices (2021)

The second international compendium of practices illustrates how participating cities of the [Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces Global Flagship Initiative](#) are working to implement women's safety approaches through the lens of intersectionality.

The compendium illustrates a range of women-led solutions, from the creation of data through a lens of intersectionality, to integrated policies that include the meaningful participation of women's rights organizations, to urban and transport planning solutions that place minoritized women at the centre, and prevention initiatives that address discriminatory behaviours.

Good practices were selected from among those that have led to positive outcomes and involve collaborative partnerships and innovative action on women's safety in public spaces, with an intersectional approach.

Available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#)



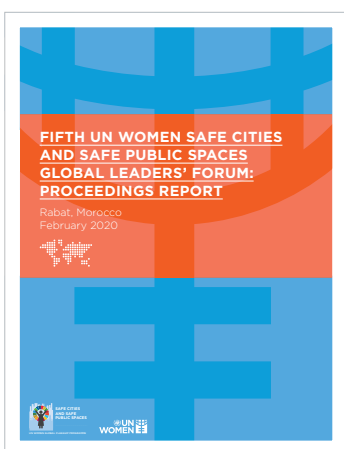
Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces for Women and Girls Global Flagship Initiative: International Compendium of Practices (2019)

This first international compendium includes a wide range of practices, strategies, and tools from women's safety partnerships in cities, including safe city and safe public spaces programmes that form part of the [Global Initiative](#).

These women-led solutions range from addressing gaps in data and establishing strong versatile partnerships with different sectors to develop and strengthen laws and policies to prevent and respond to sexual harassment, to ensuring urban and transport plans inclusive of women's and men's needs and developing initiatives to change social norms.

Available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#)

Proceedings Reports from Global Leaders' Forums

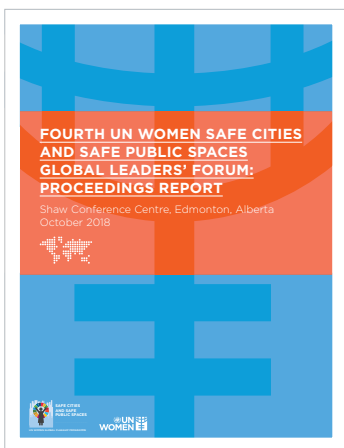


Fifth UN Women Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces Global Leaders' Forum: Proceedings Report (2020)

This report includes the main proceedings of UN Women's Fifth Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces Global Leaders' Forum on the theme "Integrated Action and Building to Scale: Safe and Empowering City and Public Space Initiatives with Women and Girls". The forum was held in Rabat, Morocco, on 26–28 February 2020, co-organized by the UN Women and the city of Rabat. The forum included 230 leaders and experts from more than 20 countries who came together to participate in South-South and North-South exchanges on two themes selected by programme partners: (1) Accelerating the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and Generation Equality: local leadership and action; and (2) Examining the role of different sectors in comprehensive safe city and safe public spaces partnerships.

The report includes insights from a wide array of speakers, detailed rapporteur reports, key recommendations, good practices and tools, and links to PowerPoint presentations.

Available in [English](#)



Fourth UN Women Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces Global Leaders' Forum: Proceedings Report (2018)

This report includes the main proceedings of UN Women's Fourth Safe Cities and Fourth UN Women Safe Cities Safe Public Spaces Global Leaders' Forum on the theme "Leadership and Catalytic Partnerships: Delivering Integrated Safe City and Public Spaces Programmes with and For All Women and Girls". The forum was co-hosted by the city of Edmonton, and Shaw Conference Centre, Edmonton, Alberta from 16–19 October 2018. Under this theme, 200 leaders and experts from more than 25 countries came together to participate in South-South and North-South exchanges on two sub-themes selected by programme partners: (1) practically implementing intersectionality in safe city programmes, and (2) implementing comprehensive approaches to safe transportation with women and girls.

The report includes key takeaways from programme sessions and participatory discussions, good practices and tools, and links to PowerPoint presentations.

Available in [English](#)



Gender Equality in Transportation (Self-Paced) online course, developed by UN Women and the World Bank

The course was jointly prepared by the World Bank's Transport Global Practice and Open Learning Campus, and the UN Women's Training Centre and the Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces Global Initiative. It provides an understanding of the often-invisible gender aspects surrounding mobility in the transport sector that make the sector "gender-blind," and therefore unable to consider the mobility needs of its diverse range of users and specifically, women and girls. It also looks at difficulties women face in getting jobs and climbing the career ladder in the transport sector—a sector dominated by a male workforce. Importantly, the course shares concrete solutions designed to support the shift towards greater gender equality in the sector. The course includes recaps throughout that repeat briefly what has been studied to facilitate knowledge retention. It finishes with a short quiz to test the participants' knowledge.

Enroll to complete the course [here](#)

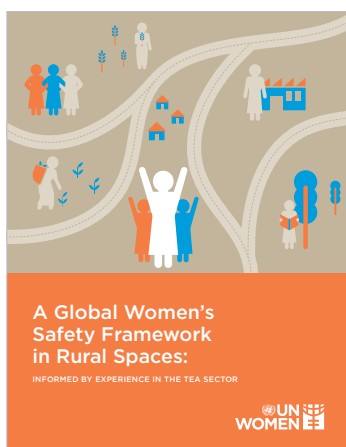


Guidelines for Developing Inclusive Transport Infrastructure, UNOPS, ILO, UN Women, ARUP (2023)

Accelerating infrastructure development is key to responding to global challenges, but we must ensure that we leave no one behind. The world is facing grave challenges that place the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in jeopardy. The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2022 finds that the COVID-19 pandemic has wiped out more than four years of progress in poverty eradication, armed conflicts have caused a record 100 million people to be forcibly displaced, and climate change has induced heatwaves, droughts and floods that affect billions of people. Infrastructure development must be accelerated to respond to these challenges and address development gaps.

These guidelines promote the development of inclusive transport infrastructure through a participatory and integrated approach. This includes three main concepts that underpin the entire publication: leave no one behind (LNOB), meaningful participation, and an integrated approach to quality infrastructure development.

Available in [English](#)



A Global Women's Safety Framework in Rural Spaces (2018)

The Global Women's Safety Framework in Rural Spaces adapts UN Women's longstanding Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces for Women and Girls Initiative and theory of change through incorporating experience in the tea sector and other commodity sectors in rural spaces. With its strong focus on prevention of violence against women and girls in public spaces, including harassment, the framework helps to build a common understanding in the tea sector that is applicable to other commodity sectors in agricultural value chains.

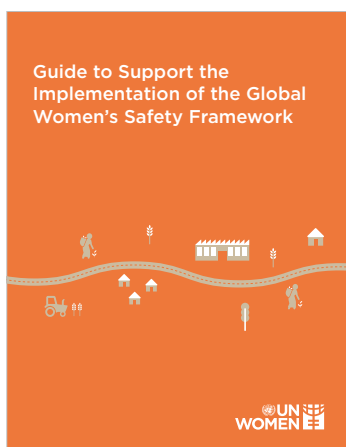
This tool explores the many manifestations and causes of violence against women and girls, and sets out their impacts on women, communities and businesses. The framework provides examples of how producers, authorities and civil society groups can work together with links to tools and organizations.

The framework can assist tea producers working in partnership on women's safety issues to:

- Better understand what violence against women and girls is, the factors that contribute to and protect against it, and how it impacts women, communities and businesses;
- Learn about the four framework action areas and the key principles that underline effective women's and girls' safety action in these areas;
- Identify different contributions that: 1) producers; 2) government authorities and 3) women, youth and community groups can make to end violence against women and girls;
- Access tools and practices to prevent and respond to sexual harassment and other forms of violence against women and girls to help guide action tailored to the local and country contexts;
- Understand some key steps to help producers implement action; and
- Explain key terms and concepts used in this area.

The framework is a key reference and accountability tool for producers, authorities, women's organizations, the UN system, and other stakeholders.

Available in [English](#)



Guide to support the implementation of the Global Women's Safety Framework in Rural Spaces (2019)

In December 2018, UN Women in collaboration a range of producers in the tea sector, and working in partnership with government authorities, tea companies, women, youth, and community groups in rural spaces launched a [“Global Women's Safety Framework in Rural Spaces: Informed by experience in the tea sector”](#) (GWSF). The GWSF aims to ensure that “all women and girls are socially, economically, and politically empowered in rural spaces that are free from sexual harassment and other forms of violence”.

The guide aims to provide support to producers on how to practically implement three main areas of the GWSF, including promising practices, case studies, and tools.

The guide is written for producers in the tea sector and can be adapted by other commodity sectors in agricultural value chains, including large-, medium-, and small-size operations. Estate managers, welfare officers, investigation officers, single proprietors/smallholder farmers, human resources, health and school staff, women and youth groups can also draw on the guide for ideas and inspiration.

Available in [English](#)

UN Women Corporate Evaluations



Independent Corporate Evaluation of UN Women's Approach to Violence against Women Prevention and Response: Navigating Changes in Global and Regional Contexts (2025)

Violence against women and girls remains one of the most pervasive human rights violations, undermining women's rights, safety, and progress toward equality. Crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change, food insecurity, and armed conflict have only deepened the risks women and girls face.

[Eliminating violence against women and girls \(VAWG\)](#) is a core priority for UN Women.

The entity plays a vital role in raising global awareness and working with governments, women's organizations, civil society, and communities to prevent and respond to VAWG. UN Women supports Member States in reforming laws and policies, promotes gender-equitable social norms through awareness campaigns and male engagement, and strengthens institutions to better support survivors. UN Women works to ensure that violence prevention is included across humanitarian, development, and peace efforts.

In 2024, [UN Women's Independent Evaluation Service](#) conducted a [corporate evaluation](#) of UN Women's approach to VAWG prevention and response. The evaluation assessed the relevance, adaptability, and effectiveness of UN Women's work amid intersecting global crises, as well as the sustainability of its efforts and alignment with key partners. The findings highlight UN Women's responsiveness to evolving challenges, especially during COVID-19, and its contributions to survivor centred services and legal reforms, including several interventions from safe cities and safe public spaces programming.

Available in [English](#)



Corporate evaluation of UN Women's UN system coordination and broader convening role in ending violence against women (2021)

UN Women works to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls (VAWG), increase access to services for survivors, and make private and public spaces safer for women and girls.

In working towards ending VAWG, UN Women leverages its integrated mandate through the provision of normative support, coordination of the UN system, and implementation of its operational activities. UN Women engages on multiple fronts by partnering with governments, UN organizations, civil society organizations, and other partners to foster accountability and yield collective action through concerted and coordinated actions to address VAWG and gender inequality.

In 2021, the [Independent Evaluation Service](#) conducted the corporate evaluation of UN Women's UN system coordination and broader convening role in ending violence against women as part of its implementation of the UN Women [Corporate Evaluation Plan](#). The evaluation provides an overall assessment of UN Women's UN system coordination and broader convening role in the area of ending violence against women and includes a forward-looking analysis with a view to informing UN Women's Strategic Plan 2022–2025.

Through safe cities the evaluation notes that UN Women is working with UN agencies and other partners to mainstream gender and reduce the risks associated with VAWG including by working with non-traditional and male-dominated sectors such as urban and transportation infrastructure and planning, and agricultural commodity sectors (working with women smallholder farmers), and making links with broader security initiatives focused on transnational criminality. These are sectors where UN Women has had very limited reach in the past and has helped to position and support the uptake of women's safety action in these sectors.

The Evaluation also revealed that the Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces Global Initiative, maintains a high focus on intersectionality and disability inclusion in programming, ensuring inclusive representation from stakeholders (LNOB).

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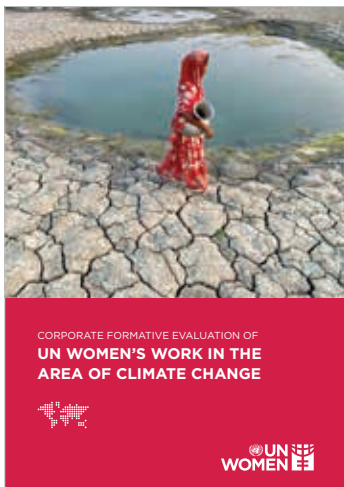


Effectiveness and Efficiency Assessment of UN Women Flagship Programme Initiatives and Thematic Priorities of the Strategic Plan (2018–2021)

This evaluation focused on the programmatic effectiveness and efficiency of the UN Women Flagship Programme Initiatives and the Thematic Priorities of the Strategic Plan (SP) 2018–2021.

The Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces Global Programme Initiative was highlighted as one of UN Women's most successful initiatives, expanding from five founding programmes overtime to include over 50 cities. Its success was driven by sustained donor support, a strong programme foundation, integrated multi-stakeholder engagement, ready-to-use guidance and tools, robust monitoring and evaluation, and strong knowledge management. Its participatory, adaptable approach fostered local ownership and context-specific action, contributing to tangible improvements in women's safety and empowerment in public spaces.

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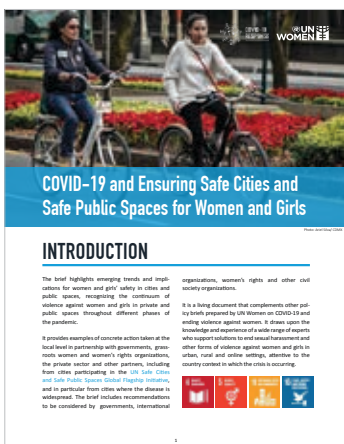
Corporate Formative Evaluation of UN Women's Work in the Area of Climate Change (2011–2022)

This formative evaluation focused on UN Women's work on climate change from 2011 to 2022, where climate change is linked to related environmental areas of UN Women's portfolio (e.g. biodiversity and land degradation) and disaster risk reduction (DRR).¹ It was conducted from October 2021 to August 2022 and addressed work across UN Women's three mandate areas, six geographic regions, four strategic priority areas and relevant institutional outcome areas.

The report highlights how UN Women is operationalizing its work to address climate change, including through the Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces Global Initiative.

Available in [English](#)

COVID 19 Policy Briefs



COVID-19 and Ensuring Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces for Women and Girls (2020)

This brief highlights emerging trends and implications for [women's and girls' safety in public spaces and cities](#), recognizing the continuum of violence against women and girls in private and public settings throughout different phases of the [COVID-19 pandemic](#).

It provides examples of concrete action taken at the local level in partnership with governments, grassroots women and women's rights organizations, the private sector, and other partners, including from cities participating in the UN Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces Global Flagship Initiative, and in particular from cities where the disease is widespread.

The brief includes recommendations to be considered by governments, international organizations, and women's rights and other civil society organizations. It is a living document that complements other briefs prepared by UN Women on COVID-19 and gender and ending violence against women.

Available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#)



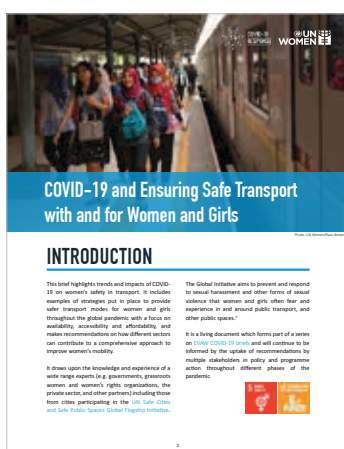
Recommendations into Action Brief COVID-19: Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces for Women and Girls (2020)

The year 2021 commemorates the 10-year anniversary of UN Women's [Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces Global Initiative](#)—the first global initiative that aims to prevent and respond to sexual harassment and other forms of sexual violence that women and girls often experience and fear in public spaces.

This brief details some of the ways safe city partners from different sectors, in a short six months, have taken action in line with the recommendations set out in UN Women's policy brief on [COVID-19 and ensuring safe cities and safe public spaces for women and girls](#).

Leaders within and across countries, cities and communities continue to demonstrate their resolve as they work to implement their holistic flagship programmes and ensure that the prevention and response to sexual harassment in public spaces and other forms of violence against women is firmly embedded in development and recovery plans. This action forms part of each city's multi-year comprehensive safe city and safe public spaces initiative with women and girls.

Available in [English](#)



COVID-19 and Ensuring Safe Transport with and for Women and Girls (2020)

This brief highlights trends and impacts of [COVID-19](#) on women's safety in transport. It includes examples of strategies put in place to provide safer transport modes for women and girls throughout the global pandemic, with a focus on availability, accessibility, and affordability, and makes recommendations on how different sectors can contribute to a comprehensive approach to improve women's mobility.

It draws upon the knowledge and experience of many experts (for example, governments, grassroots women's and women's rights organizations, the private sector, and other partners), including those from cities participating in UN Women's [Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces Global Flagship Initiative](#).

Available in [English](#)



Online and ICT-Facilitated Violence against Women and Girls during COVID-19 (2020)

This brief highlights emerging trends and impacts of [COVID-19](#) on [violence against women and girls](#) facilitated by information and communications technology (ICT). It provides examples of strategies and practices put in place to prevent and respond to online and ICT-facilitated violence against women and girls. It also considers the impact of the pandemic on violence against women and girls in a reality shaped by a gender digital divide.

It makes recommendations to be considered by governments, women's rights organizations, civil society organizations, internet intermediaries, and other practitioners committed to enhancing women's and girls' online safety.

Available in [English](#)



RESPECT Women: Programme Summary: Port Moresby, a Safe City for Women and Girls Programme, UN Women and WHO (2020)

The Port Moresby Safe City for Women and Girls Programme (PMSCP) in Papua New Guinea (PNG) started in 2011, as one of the five founding city programmes of UN Women's 'Safe Cities Free of Violence Against Women and Girls Global Programme'. The Global Programme aims to prevent and respond to sexual harassment and other forms of sexual violence against women and girls (VAWG) in public spaces. The PMSCP aimed to make markets and public transport safe and free of violence for women and girls and increase women and girls' autonomous mobility in the city. The programme is an example of a safe cities initiative that addresses VAWG through a multisectoral and holistic approach; combining interventions and working with multiple stakeholders to create safe and empowering urban environments for women and girls – which can support women's empowerment and wider access to opportunities.

Available in [English](#)

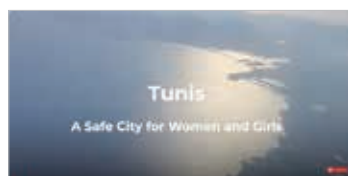
Videos



Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces for Women and Girls Global Initiative (2025)

UN Women's Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces Global Initiative includes comprehensive programming with local and national governments, UN agencies, women's rights organizations and other partners spanning 36 countries to prevent and address sexual harassment and other forms of sexual violence against women and girls in multiple settings. Despite affecting millions of women and girls, such forms of violence have long been tolerated, and the issue is often neglected in policy and practice. This video includes a range of innovative comprehensive solutions by multi sectoral partners to create safe public spaces for all women and girls in the global north and south to address this gap. The need for integrated approaches that includes a focus on women's economic empowerment, women's political participation and ending violence against women is highlighted, with key achievements shared.

Available in [English](#)



Tunis Safe City and Safe Public Spaces for Women and Girls (2025)

The city of Tunis participates in the Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces Global Programme. Since the beginning of their programme, a scoping study was conducted to inform the development of the Tunis Safe City and Safe Public Spaces Programme which revealed that women's safety in public spaces and transportation is a key challenge, resulting in women restricting their movements in the city. The municipality has committed to implementing structural solutions to prevent and respond to sexual violence in public spaces and enhance women's safety. With support from UN Women, priority interventions are being implemented throughout the city. These include gender responsive urban planning, leadership development for youth, and awareness raising campaigns.

Available in [English](#)



El Alto Safe City and Safe Public Spaces for Women and Girls (2025)

In Bolivia, the cities of El Alto, La Paz, and Santa Cruz (Districts of Montero and Warnes) participate in the United Nations Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces Global Programme. UN Women supports the practical implementation of the “Leave No One Behind” principle of the Sustainable Development Goals through this initiative, working to engage and support women and girls who face multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination. In El Alto, UN Women is working with Indigenous women recyclers to address the discrimination and violence they often experience while working in public spaces. This work cuts across three thematic areas: ending violence against women, women's economic empowerment, and women's participation in climate change mitigation. A range of action is highlighted, including strategies to enhance public awareness about the important contribution women recyclers make, and intentional strategies to engage their voices in schools as part of violence prevention and within municipal programming that educates students on their role in addressing the climate crisis as part of a comprehensive approach to create safe and sustainable cities for women and for all.

Available in [English](#)



Mexico City Safe City Programme (2017)

Safe Cities Free from Violence against Women and Girls is a global program promoted by UN Women as part of its strategy to prevent and eliminate violence against women and girls. This video addresses the situation of women and girls on public transportation in Mexico City which Mexico City is working to address through its Safe City programme. The Video also announced that Mexico City will co-host the Third Global Leaders' Forum on Safe Cities with UN Women in February 2017.

Available in [English](#)



Rabat, A Safe City Free of Violence against Women and Girls (2017)

In March 2015, Rabat became the second city in Morocco to participate in UN Women's global initiative, stating its political will to end sexual violence in its urban public spaces, including sexual harassment.

This video illustrates key interventions in Rabat as part of advancing the implementation of their comprehensive safe cities and safe public spaces programme.

The City, with support from UN Women, developed an initial set of pilot interventions, including the establishment of an Equity, Equal opportunities and gender approach Entity, a local mechanism to ensure gender mainstreaming in local decision-making processes.

In addition, four local NGOs developed action with women focused on the defense of their rights and social norms change at community level to promote women's and girls' rights to enjoy public spaces free from violence.

Available in [English](#)



Quezon City Safe City (2015)

In Quezon City, Philippines participates in UN Women's Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces Global Programme. Through this work, they identified that sexual harassment is prevalent in different public spaces, including in neighbourhoods with high levels of poverty, unemployment, theft, trafficking and other forms of violence.

Available in [English](#)



Quito: A City Committed to Prevent Sexual Harassment in Public Spaces (2015)

The city of Quito in Ecuador is committed to the prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls, including sexual harassment in public spaces. As part of UN Women's Safe Cities Global Initiative, Quito is one of the five founding city programmes working to create safe public spaces through its Safe City programme, established in 2011.

This video illustrates some of the initial actions undertaken by the Municipality of Quito, in collaboration with UN Women, and many local stakeholders, such as grassroots women and women's organizations, public transportation systems, and the media.

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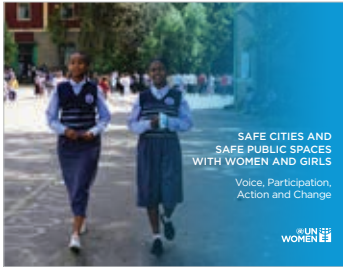
Safe Markets for Women Vendors in Papua New Guinea (2015)

Women represent nearly 80 per cent of Port Moresby's market vendors. For many of them, selling vegetables is their only source of daily subsistence, and yet markets are not a safe place for them. In 2011, with support from the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID), UN Women-Papua New Guinea Office, women's grassroots organizations, the National Capital District Commission and other partners launched the Port Moresby Safe City Programme. It aims to improve market infrastructure and increase access of women market vendors to services and increase their economic empowerment.

This two-part video series illustrates how Port Moresby's Safe City programme is making a breakthrough in the city's public markets.

Part 1 available in [English](#)

Part 2 available in [English](#)



Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces with Women and Girls: Voice, Participation, Action and Change (2022)

This first visual photo book produced for UN Women's Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces Global Initiative includes powerful images and firsthand testimonies from women agents of change/ beneficiaries and other partners in the Global Initiative, illustrating stories of change, resilience, participation and collective action to make public spaces safer and more inclusive for women and girls.

Available in hardcopy only. Copies can be ordered by contacting

safe.cities@unwomen.org

UN Women exists to advance women's rights, gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. As the lead United Nations entity on gender equality, we shift laws, institutions, social norms and services to close the gender gap and build an equal world for all women and girls. We keep the rights of women and girls at the centre of global progress – always, everywhere. Because gender equality is not just what we do. It is who we are.

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